WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In an apparatus for sealing the space between a floating roof and a tank wall in a liquid storage tank which includes means for mounting a shoe on the floating roof in the storage tank and maintaining the shoe in contact with an inner wall of the tank, the improvement which comprises an electrically conductive bonding strap connected at one end to a lower portion of the shoe assembly below liquid level and connected at a second end to the floating roof below liquid level, the bonding strap being of a length to minimize its self inductance, so as to provide a preferred path for dissipating electrical current through an oxygen deficient environment.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bonding strap is made of a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, copper, tinned-copper, bronze and mixtures thereof.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the liquid storage tank is an external floating roof tank.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bonding strap is no longer than required to bridge the distance between the floating roof and the shoe assembly at locations the bonding strap is connected there between, allowing for seal tolerances.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bonding strap is made of a corrosion resistant material.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bonding strap is entirely below liquid level.

7. A method of protecting a floating roof tank from the effects of a lightning strike comprising the steps of placing an electrically conductive bonding strap at one end into electrical contact with an inner wall of the tank below liquid level in the tank and connecting a second end of the bonding strap to the floating roof below liquid level, the bonding strap being of a length to minimize its self inductance, so as to provide a preferred electrically efficient path for conducting electrical current through an oxygen deficient environment.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the bonding strap is made of a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, copper, tinned-copper, bronze and mixtures thereof.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the electrical contact with an inner wall of the tank is made through a sliding shoe seal assembly.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the bonding strap is no longer than the allowed seal tolerances between the floating roof and the shoe assembly at locations the bonding strap is connected there between.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the bonding strap is made of a corrosion resistant material.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the bonding strap is entirely below liquid level.

13. In an apparatus for sealing the space between a floating roof and an inner tank wall in a liquid storage tank, the improvement which comprises an electrically conductive bonding strap in electrical communication with the inner tank wall and the floating roof located below liquid level, the bonding strap being of a length to minimize its

self inductance, so as to provide a preferred path for dissipating electrical current through an oxygen deficient environment.

14. In a liquid storage tank having an inner tank wall and a floating roof, the improvement which comprises means for establishing electrical communication between the inner tank wall and the floating roof, said means being located below the liquid level and being configured to have minimum self inductance, so as to provide a preferred path for dissipating electrical current through an oxygen deficient environment in the storage tank.

15. A method of protecting a floating roof tank from the effects of a lightning strike comprising the steps of providing an electrically conductive bonding strap in electrical communication with an inner tank wall and the floating roof whereby the bonding strap is located below liquid level, the bonding strap being of a length to minimize its self inductance, so as to provide a preferred electrically efficient path for conduction of lightning stroke current through an oxygen deficient environment.